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CONFIDENTIAL

4 December 1953

Chief, FE Division

Chief, Finance Division

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ATTN : [REDACTED]

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Proposed Dispatch - Subject: Travel [REDACTED]

1. Attached is subject dispatch which was referred to this division for coordination.

2. Paragraphs 4 and 6 of the subject dispatch indicate that in order to obtain reimbursement for the cost of first class sea-rail travel by the most direct usually traveled route from [REDACTED] the mode of travel selected for the beginning of travel by an indirect route must be of the same type and class. Such interpretation of the Standardized Travel Regulations was correct under the issues prior to 1 October 1950. With the issuance of the revision of 1 October 1950, however, the language of Section 10 of the travel regulations which deals with "Indirect-route Travel" was changed from:

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"...reimbursement for expenses will be based only on such charges as were actually incurred,"

to:

"...reimbursement for expenses will be based only on such charges as would have been incurred by a usually traveled route."

In an interpretation of this section of the travel regulations (CG Decision B-102300) in relation to a case where less than first class accommodations were used in connection with travel by an indirect route, the Comptroller General has stated,

"...the employee is entitled to reimbursement of transportation expenses actually incurred, not to exceed the cost to the Government had he returned direct... by first class accommodation."

It would appear, therefore, that in this case the traveler may be reimbursed for actual cost of travel not to exceed the cost to the Government of first class direct route travel regardless of the mode or class of travel by the indirect route, subject, of course, to appropriate administrative approval of travel by the indirect route. There is, of course, no objection on the part of Finance Division if less than maximum service or allowances are administratively determined as appropriate in the circumstances and

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appropriate limitations are incorporated in the travel order. The above change in regulations is being brought to your attention in the belief that current interpretations were not available to you when this matter was considered.

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3. Also, we note that paragraph 4 indicates that [REDACTED] will return to [REDACTED] upon completion of TDI at Headquarters, whereas paragraph 7 states that his cover, and plans for his training and future status will be discussed fully with [REDACTED] during his forthcoming visit to Headquarters.

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4. As has been indicated in various discussions and memoranda between your office and this division, the present arrangements under which [REDACTED] has been required to operate do not permit desirable degree of control over funds, accountings or reporting. We feel that this condition should receive careful attention and review at the earliest practicable date with a view to placing a Finance Officer in this [REDACTED] in such position with respect to normal command and communication channels as will permit him to assume and be charged with full responsibility normally delegated to a Senior Field Finance Officer, including custodianship of all funds, control of all disbursements, audit and certification of accounts, and consolidation and submittal of a single accounting report for the [REDACTED].

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5. The attainment of the above objective will require that the Finance Officer have such background, training and experience as will support action to appoint him as a Certifying Officer. It is probable that [REDACTED] would be considered the most appropriate candidate for such assignment; however, final decision in the matter must necessarily await his return in order that he may be evaluated from a finance standpoint. In any event, we should like to have [REDACTED] available for considerable reorientation and training in the Finance Division while on TDI in Headquarters. If he is to be considered for appointment as a Field Certifying Officer, we feel that at least four months of Headquarters duty will be required.

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6. I will be pleased to discuss this matter further with interested officials at such time as you consider appropriate.

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Attachment - Dispatch [REDACTED]

FD/LEB:mct

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